



## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Commission Approves Support and Assessment Induction Programs for New Teachers**

(SACRAMENTO) – New teachers in the San Diego, Irvine, San Francisco, and Sacramento areas will benefit from innovative Beginning Support and Assessment (BTSA) Induction programs as a result of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing's recent action.

At its October 4, 2007 meeting, the Commission approved the following new BTSA Induction programs:

- High Tech High Charter Schools (San Diego, CA)
- Irvine Unified School District (Irvine, CA)
- REACH (San Francisco Bay Area, CA)
- San Mateo-Foster City School District (San Mateo, Foster City, CA)
- SIATech Charter School (California, statewide)
- Washington Unified School District (Sacramento, CA)

The BTSA Induction Program provides formative assessment, individualized support and advanced content for newly-credentialed, beginning teachers, and is the pathway to a California Clear Teaching Credential. The BTSA Induction program is co-administered by the California Department of Education (CDE) and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).

BTSA Induction serves California teachers and students by:

- Providing an effective transition into teaching careers for first- and second-year teachers
- Improving the educational performance of students through improved training, information, and assistance for participating teachers

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- Enabling beginning teachers to be effective in teaching students who are culturally, linguistically, and academically diverse
- Ensuring the professional success and retention of new teachers
- Ensuring that a support provider provides intensive individualized support and assistance to each participating beginning teacher
- Ensuring that an individual induction plan is in place for each participating beginning teacher and is based on an ongoing assessment of the development of the beginning teacher
- Ensuring continuous program improvement through ongoing research, development, and evaluation

BTSA Induction programs may be offered by school districts, county offices of education, and/or institutions of higher education. Local education agencies may receive state funding to support induction programs through the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment grant program. In order to receive funds, participating local education agencies must develop and implement teacher induction programs that meet standards adopted by the Commission and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Induction programs that meet the *Standards of Quality and Effectiveness for Professional Teacher Induction Programs* may recommend candidates for a California Clear Teaching Credential.

For fiscal year 2006-07, BTSA Induction provided more than 28,000 participating teachers in 154 programs with formative assessment of their teaching practices, professional development to promote effective teaching practices and student learning, and the advanced content required for the California Clear Teaching Credential.

BTSA Induction programs vary in organizational design and include single district programs, consortia of districts as well as large, county office of education-based consortia. Each BTSA Induction program works in collaboration with one or more institutions of higher education.

Attached is contact information and descriptions of each new Commission-approved program.

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## NEW BEGINNING TEACHER SUPPORT AND ASSESSMENT (BTSA) INDUCTION PROGRAMS

**Approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing  
October 4, 2007**

### ***High Tech High Charter School***

High Tech High Charter School's BTSA Induction program will serve teachers in the growing network of High Tech High Public Charter Schools. Currently, High Tech High Charter Schools operates five high schools, two middle schools, and an elementary school, with an additional 4-6 schools anticipated to be opened in California over the next 5-7 years. The affiliated districts are San Diego Unified School District and Statewide Benefit Charter (SBC) High Tech High, the State Charter entity under which the schools operate.

The High Tech High Charter Schools Professional Beginning Teacher Support and Induction Program partners with the University of California, Santa Cruz New Teacher Center and the University of San Diego.

The High Tech High Charter Schools Professional Beginning Teacher Support and Induction Program provides a direct link to teacher preparation with its own approved High Tech High Charter Schools Teacher Intern Program. As an Induction program sponsor, High Tech High Charter Schools will be able to offer a bridge to its 35 new teachers around teacher preparation and ongoing development across the Learning to Teach Continuum.

**For further program information please contact:** Jennifer Husbands:  
[jhusbands@hightechhigh.org](mailto:jhusbands@hightechhigh.org) or (619) 398-8624

### ***Irvine Unified School District***

The Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) BTSA Induction Program is an outgrowth of the past partnership with the Orange County Department of Education BTSA Consortium and the University of California, Irvine, BTSA program from 1995 to 2003.

IUSD educates a diverse K-12 student population of over 25,000 in 22 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, 4 comprehensive high schools, and 1 continuation high school, with over 70 languages spoken. IUSD has nationally recognized schools, student performance well-above state and national comparisons, no low performing schools, and comprehensive programs in academics, the arts, and athletics.

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In 2007-2008, IUSD will serve approximately 130 new teachers and 85 support providers within the BTSA Induction Program. IUSD utilizes the California Formative Assessment and Support System for Teachers (CFASST) as their formative assessment system and offers continuing education opportunities through Chapman University and Concordia University. The district's strategic plan is driven by their mission of enabling all students to become contributing members of society, empowered with the skills, knowledge, and values necessary to meet the challenges of a changing world.

**For further program information please contact:** Teresa Stringer: [Tstringe@iusd.org](mailto:Tstringe@iusd.org)

### ***Reach***

The Reach BTSA Induction Program is a consortium of independent charter schools sponsored by the Bay Area School of Enterprise (BASE), a public charter high school, by and through Alternatives in Action; BASE's sponsoring non-profit entity (BASE/AIA). The program is co-sponsored by On the Move, a public benefit non-profit agency that specializes in fostering emerging leadership. On the Move has been working with leaders in schools from across the Bay Area since 2004.

The Reach BTSA Induction Program Consortium includes charter schools from Alameda and Santa Clara counties. Consortium Partners include: Bay Area School of Enterprise (BASE), the Lead Local Education Agency, which is a public charter school located in Alameda and authorized by Alameda Unified School District; Dolores Huerta Learning Academy, a public charter school and a K-8 dual language program located in Oakland's Fruitvale District and authorized by Oakland Unified School District; Oasis High School, a public charter high school located in downtown Oakland and authorized by Oakland Unified School District; Escuela Popular Accelerated Learning Academy, a K-12 dual language school located in east San Jose and authorized by East Side Union High School District; and Escuela Popular Center for Training and Careers, a public charter high school located in downtown San Jose and authorized by East Side Union High School District. While each of these schools is unique, each specializes in serving student populations that are traditionally underserved or "at risk" in the schooling system. Personalization, high expectations, choice, and college preparation are the hallmarks of all the Reach Consortium schools.

The Reach BTSA Induction Program has contracted with a team of adjunct faculty who helped to design the program and who will serve as advisors, seminar instructors, and members of the advisory committee. Adjunct faculty members include professors of education from San Jose State University; San Francisco State University; University of California, Berkeley; and Alliant International University. Additionally, the team includes former professors of education from Mills College and Harvard University.

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The Reach Professional Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Induction Program will begin serving 22 participating teachers in the 2007-2008 school year.

**For further program information please contact:** Page Tompkins:  
[pagetompkins@comcast.net](mailto:pagetompkins@comcast.net) or (415) 336-3390

### ***San Mateo-Foster City School District***

The San Mateo-Foster City School District (SMFCSD) BTSA Induction Program offers new teachers a comprehensive BTSA Induction program designed to meet the needs of new teachers within the San Mateo-Foster City School District. The SMFCSD offers participants a program that incorporates the wide range of professional development offered to all teachers with the SMFCSD. It provides 102 participating teachers with the ability to self-select, under advisement of Support Providers, options of seminar, workshop, and university coursework to complete the required training of their induction program.

The SMFCSD employs a number of academic instructional coaches in the areas of special education, math, science, technology, and language arts. Some of these coaches serve part time as BTSA Induction support providers. The District also employs full time, retired and part-time release BTSA Induction coaches who serve as support providers. With these levels of highly qualified support structures, the SMFCSD offers a number of in-house staff development opportunities in the areas of literacy, K-5 and middle school science, English language learners, and mathematics.

The SMFCSD Professional Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Induction Program partners with the following institutions of higher education and agencies to provide a comprehensive induction program to new teachers:

- University of Santa Cruz New Teacher Project
- San Jose State University Teacher Collaborative
- San Mateo County Office of Education
- Chapman University
- University of the Pacific
- Noyce Foundation

**For further program information please contact:** Mary Willis:  
[mwillis@smfc.k12.ca.us](mailto:mwillis@smfc.k12.ca.us) or (650) 312-7700

### ***SIATech***

The SIATech BTSA Induction Program is a single district charter school operating under the Vista Unified School District with sites throughout California in the following areas:

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- The Inland Empire region, affiliated with San Bernardino City Unified School
- Long Beach, affiliated with the Long Beach Unified School District
- Los Angeles, affiliated with the Los Angeles Unified School District
- Sacramento, affiliated with the Sacramento City Unified School District
- San Diego, affiliated with the Sweetwater School District
- San Jose, affiliated with the Alum Rock School District and East Side High School District
- Treasure Island, affiliated with the San Francisco Unified School District

SIATech offers a unique educational program specifically designed as an alternative to traditional high schools. SIATech provides a rigorous core academic curriculum coupled with an electives program emphasizing workplace readiness and vocational certification. This program is possible because of a partnership with the federal Job Corps program. Both programs share a common goal of improving the life of the severely at-risk students, who are considered “at-promise,” enabling them to both earn a high school diploma and successfully enter the workplace, military service, and higher education. All stakeholders are involved in the formation and implementation of SIATech’s vision for student learning: “Real Learning for Real Life.”

This vision encompasses the four core academic areas (with an emphasis on literacy and numeracy), technological skills, and career preparation. The unique partnership between SIATech and Job Corps allows disadvantaged youth the opportunity to complete their secondary education in a technology-rich, classroom-based environment that supports academic achievement, vocational training, and workplace readiness.

The use of a high-tech, motivating, integrated curriculum that is competency-based provides incentive for students to build their skill set and achieve their goals. SIATech’s integrated ConTech Learning Strategies academic curriculum embeds California content standards into industry-standard software programs such as Microsoft Office Suite, AutoCAD 2000, Macromedia Flash and Adobe. This custom curriculum requires that students learn to manipulate these software applications in order to move through the learning activities. Competency is demonstrated in benchmark assessments and culminates in the presentation of five senior projects that represent student learning. Students leave SIATech with a solid academic knowledge base as well as marketable technical skills and a high school diploma.

The SIATech BTSA Induction Program worked in partnership with the North Coast BTSA Induction Program from 2005-2007 to support new teachers. In the 2007-08 year it will work with higher education partner California State University, San Marcos and will utilize the CFASST formative assessment system to support and assess nine participating teachers.

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**For further program information please contact:** Beverly Gilbert:  
[gilbertb@siatech.org](mailto:gilbertb@siatech.org) or (760) 594-4241

***Washington Unified School District***

The Washington Unified School District (WUSD) BTSA Induction Program focuses on the challenges that face the district, and includes a heavy emphasis on effective instruction for children learning English and children in poverty. The support provider model offered by the program provides intensive weekly classroom observations and collaborative conversation between the support provider and beginning teachers followed by individualized support for classroom challenges. In addition to extensive work with support providers, beginning teachers participate in seminars tailored to their immediate needs.

The WUSD BTSA Induction Program currently serves approximately 47 beginning teachers and works in partnership with California State University, Sacramento; University of California, Davis; Sacramento County Office of Education; and Yolo County Office of Education to provide support across the learning to teach continuum and professional development for beginning teachers.

**For further program information please contact:** Sue Brothers:  
[Sbrothers@wusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:Sbrothers@wusd.k12.ca.us) or (916) 375-7604

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